



Happy Camp - Moorpark, California Courtesy of Rueben Bouvet

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Hike and Activity Schedule Northern Rim of the Valley Summer 2003



“Each moment of the year has its own beauty . . . a picture which was never before and shall never be seen again. “ - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon
24255 The Old Road, Newhall, CA 91321
Towsley@smmc.ca.gov
www.smmc.ca.gov

NORTHERN EXPOSURE Summer 2003

Interested in Volunteering?

We offer free Docent Naturalist training and year-round continuing education training for our volunteers. This fall we will be offering free volunteer training.

If you're interested in trail maintenance, our trails need tending year-round. We have volunteer crews that go out every Wednesday morning at 9:00am and every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

If you are interested in learning more about being a Docent, a Trail's Volunteer, or other volunteer opportunities, or if you'd like to shadow one of our volunteers to see what we are all about please call (661) 255-3606 or send an email to Towsley@smmc.ca.gov.



Professor Vicki Drake leading a geology program for some of our volunteers.



New trailhead at Wiley Canyon

Thank You!

To all who came out on Saturday, April 26th to make our First Annual Towsley Canyon Trail Day a HUGE success!!! 130 Volunteers completed 6 projects!! Way to go! We couldn't have done it without you!

Calling all Educators

On Saturday July 26th and September 27th from 10:00am-3:00pm, The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will host Project WILD and Project AQUATIC, respectively, in the Towsley Canyon Lodge at Ed Davis Park in Santa Clarita. These are hands on interdisciplinary, conservation and environmental education programs. They are primarily geared for educators working with kindergarten through high school age youth.

Our workshop goals are as follows:

- Introduce teachers and other educators to the materials and philosophy of Project WILD and Project AQUATIC.
- Demonstrate how educators can use Project WILD and Project AQUATIC activities in the course of their daily teaching, moving their students from awareness to responsible human actions.
- Provide a sampling of teaching strategies and activities that will help students become aware of their presence in the environment and their personal responsibility for it.
- Allow workshop participants an opportunity to plan how and where they will incorporate Project WILD and Project AQUATIC in their day-to-day teaching.

Lunch and snacks will be provided. We are asking a \$10.00 donation for food & snacks. In addition, you will receive an activity book at no cost. To register please contact: Deborah Verga at (661) 255-3606, or dverga@smmc.ca.gov

Summer Photo Contest

Have you ever taken a picture that has surprised you by how well it turned out? Then you are exactly who we are looking for! During July and August we are holding a photo contest! Take pictures of the plants, insects, animals and people within our parks and submit the best one. Please submit only one (1) photo per month. Photos submitted should be 5x7 or 8x10 in size, or you may submit it on a CD-Rom in .JPEG or .GIF format. No email photos. Photos will not be returned. Photos must be received by 5:00pm on the last day of each month. The staff of Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon will judge the photos. One winner and three (3) runners-up will be chosen for July and for August. The winner and the runners-up for each month will have their photo placed on display in the Sonia Thompson Nature Center at Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon for everyone to see. One grand prize winner will be chosen from the two (2) monthly winners. The grand prize winner will have their photo grace the cover of the fall edition of the "Northern Exposure" program schedule. To submit your photo, please mail it to: Summer Photo Contest, Ed Davis Park in Towsley Canyon, 24255 The Old Road, Newhall, CA 91321.

Schedule of Events by Location

For all hikes, please remember to bring plenty of water, wear sturdy shoes and sunscreen.

Towsley Canyon Call (661) 255-3606 for information. Meet at kiosk unless directed otherwise.

Sunday, July 13, 9:00-10:00 PM. Full Moon Hike: "Creatures of the Night." Explore the canyon in the cool of the evening. Meet at front entrance. Bring a flashlight if you have one.

Saturday, July 19, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning Bird Walk: Birds eat breakfast too! Join us for a casual walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, July 19, 8:00-9:00 PM. Family Campfire: "Bats in your Backyard." Bring a blanket or chairs. Meet on the lawn in front of the nature center.

Sunday, July 27, 8:00-10:00 AM. Native American Plant Hike: Learn which plants the Native American's used and how they used them.

Saturday, August 2, 7:00-9:00 AM. Morning Ramble: How do plants conserve water in the heat of summer?

Saturday, August 16, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning Bird Walk: Did you know that bird's beaks are designed for the food they eat? Join us for a casual walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Wednesday, September 10, 7:15-8:15 PM. Full Moon Hike: Enlighten your senses under the light of the moon. Meet at the front entrance. Bring a flashlight if you have one.

Saturday, September 13, 7:30-8:30 PM. Family Campfire: "Sky Stories." The origins of the constellations can be found in Native American stories. Bring a blanket or chairs. Meet on the lawn in front of the nature center.

Saturday, September 20, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning Bird Walk: Identify the birds of late summer. Join us for a casual walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Sunday, September 28, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning Hike: "Red-Tail Hawks use their Eyes to Survive." Learn how this stealthy predator is well adapted to life in the canyon.

East/Rice Canyon Call (661) 255-3606 for information. Meet at kiosk unless directed otherwise.

Monday, August 11, 8:00-9:00 PM. Full Moon Hike: Explore this beautiful canyon under the light of the moon. Bring a flashlight if you have one

Saturday, September 6, 6:30-8:00 PM. Evening Hike: "Flying Creatures of the Night." Join us for a casual hike up the canyon.

Sunday, September 28, 8:00-10:00 AM. Native American Plant Hike: Learn which plants the Native Americans used and how they used them.

Pico Canyon Call (661) 255-3606 for information. Meet at gate unless directed otherwise.

Saturday, July 12, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning hike: "Be an Animal Detective." Search for evidence of animals without actually seeing them.

Whitney Canyon Call (661) 255-3606 for information. Meet at kiosk unless directed otherwise.

Saturday, August 16, 8:00-10:00 AM. Morning hike: "Be an Animal Detective." Search for evidence of animals without actually seeing them.

Sage Ranch Call (661) 255-3606 for information. Meet at entrance to Sage Ranch above Santa Susana. Bring your children but not your dog.

Sunday, July 27, 3:00-5:30 PM. "Poisonous Plants: to eat or not to eat." Do you know which plants are poisonous? Join us on an afternoon hike to identify them.

Sunday, August 17, 3:30-6:00 PM. "Alien Plants: no, these aren't from Mars!" Learn which plants are "alien" and how to identify them on this afternoon hike.

Sunday, September 28, 3:30-6:00 PM. Come out and enjoy the late blooming flowers of summer. Easy to moderate hike (3mi. RT / 500ft gain/loss).

Happy Camp Call (661) 255-3606 for information unless otherwise noted. Read "Directions" for location.

Sunday, July 6, 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon. Post 4th of July Family Activity Hike for the Young at Heart. Hike to the Spring, the Cathedral Grove and back. Bring water, snack and perhaps binoculars on this easy hike (about 3 miles). Call hike leader at 805-529-4828 for more information.

Sunday, August 31, 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon. Family Activity Hike for the Young at Heart. See above for details.

Saturday, September 6, 9:30 AM-12:00 Noon. Family Hike in Cathedral Grove. A moderate hike 8+ mi. RT up over 2000+ ft. (1300 ft. gain/loss). Wear boots, bring lunch and water.

Sunday, September 7, 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon. Family Activity Hike for the Young at Heart. See above for details.

Directions

Happy Camp Canyon: (15100 Happy Camp Canyon Rd., Moorpark). From 101 Freeway, take (23) Freeway north, connecting to go on (118) freeway EAST; and from westbound (118) Freeway exit at Los Angeles Ave/Princeton Ave (NOT New Los Angeles Ave.). Turn NORTH on Princeton Ave. (Do not take LA Ave.) Go two blocks to Campus Park Dr. Turn Left, past two more blocks and straight into park at Rustic Canyon Golf Course sign and gate. Follow paved road and park in golf course parking lot where docent(s) will meet you (about 1 mile from park entrance).

Sage Ranch: In Woodland Hills, from Highway 101, exit Valley Circle heading north. From Simi Valley exit Topanga Blvd, west on Plummer to Valley Circle heading south. Head to Woolsey Canyon intersection. Turn and follow the signs to Boeing & Sage. Turn right at the top of the hill onto Black Canyon Road. The entrance to the park is 200 feet from the intersection. Park inside the gate.

Towsley Canyon Park: Traveling north through Santa Clarita, take the Calgrove exit from the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5). Turn west back under the freeway and take the Old Road south, proceed to the first driveway on your right. Look for the sign: "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Park in back lot and meet at kiosk for hikes; nature center for campfires.

Rice Canyon: Traveling north through Santa Clarita, take the Calgrove exit from the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5). Turn west back under the freeway and take the Old Road south, driving about 1 mile. The trailhead is about 300 yards south of the Church of Nazarene. Look for the sign: "Santa Clarita Woodlands: East Canyon/Rice Canyon Entrance." Park on frontage road.

Pico Canyon: Traveling north through Santa Clarita, take the Pico/Lyons exit from the Golden State Freeway (Interstate 5). There is road construction on Pico Canyon Road, so directions will change. Contact (661) 255-3606 for the latest information.

Whitney Canyon: Traveling north on the Antelope Valley Freeway (Highway 14), take the San Fernando Road exit. Proceed east to the Park and Ride lot. Meet at gate.